

Annual Little 500 A Roaring Success

By Sabrina Butts
Staff Writer

On Saturday, April 18, Saint Joseph's campus was transformed. Roads were blocked and bridges linked sidewalks otherwise fenced off. Tables and booths were set up and there were inflatable obstacle courses and other games while a thirty-foot rock wall towered next to Gallagher. It was time for the 47th annual Little 500.

Students and alumni alike gathered for this event meant to relax the students before getting ready for finals week. Alumni returned to see the campus that started off their lives. No matter what the reason people attended, everyone who came enjoyed themselves as they watched the race, visited the booths, or played games.

Several clubs set up booths to show off their organization and to raise money. The Columbian Players, for example, held an "Old Time Photo Booth" and allowed people to try on costumes and take pictures for only two dollars. There was also a booth, Pie-the-Prof, that raised money for charity run by the freshman class. Other clubs who joined in the fun included Habitat for Humanity, who did a nail driving booth; Cup o Joe; who sold popcorn Art Club, who painted faces; Super Adventure Club; and many others.

Sophomore Elementary Education major Bridget McDermott worked for her second year, heading the event as the Traditions Little 500 Chairperson. She worked hard gathering a pit crew and organizing the drivers, while striving to encourage clubs to be involved during the race with booths of their own.

"The hardest part is getting help," McDermott admitted. "So many people want to attend, but very few want to be part of the process."

No matter how hard the job was, though, it was well worth

it. McDermott said, "My favorite part of Little 500 is the actual day of the race when everything finally comes together and you are able to witness everyone having a great time, especially the drivers."

The student race, which followed the alumni race, was the highlight of the day. Starting at one o'clock, the drivers drove off in search of victory. After a two hour and forty five minute long race, Senior Elementary Education major Andrew Malone won for his third time, followed by Tim Deno and Sophomore Mary Kate Kenney.

The entire thing went off a bang and the event was hop Little 500 is always a draw, nearly a half century tradition that keeps bringing alumni back and allows students to blow steam before finals. I highly encourage those who missed on the fun to come next year welcome clubs who were not able to set up a booth to plan

to attract attention for their own organization next year. Good luck

Pictured at top: Racers prepare for the events at hand

Pictured to right: Ms. Puma, Sarah Wright, greets the audience with a smile

Pictured below: Dr. Haskel takes a pie to the face for a good cause

(Pictures courtesy of Father Tim McFarland C.P.P.S.)



2009 Ms. Puma Competition

By Elysse Hillyer
Staff Writer

On Wednesday April 15th, the Saint Joseph’s College theater was the site of the 2009 Ms. Puma competition. Six lovely ladies were competing for this year’s crown and musician Jason Levasseur was the MC for the event.

The theater was crowded and more people continued to file in as Jason began the evening by playing a few of his original songs.

The first section of the competition was the formal wear. Junior SarahWright, Senior Kristin Gorski, Sophomore Meagan Maes, Senior Laura Courtney, Junior Jessica Portney, and Junior Jennifer Ruff all strutted their stuff in front of the

crowd, hoping to wow the judges with their fantastic formal wear.

Jason played a few more songs while the girls prepared for the next part of the competition. The contestants showed off their sporty side in the athletic wear portion of the night.

The crowd even got involved when Meagan Maes batted wiffle balls into the audience while wearing a Chicago Cubs jersey, and Jessica Portney hit a few tennis balls to the spectators.

After an interlude during which there were several calls for Jason to play “Freebird,” it was time for the talent section of the competition.

First, Sarah Wright serenaded the crowd, accompanied by Kevin Mackowicz on guitar. Then Kristin Gorski performed a step routine with a few friends

under the glow of black lights. Meagan Maes sang and played the Tom Petty song “Free Fallin’” on guitar, with some help from Jacob Wanner on guitar too. Laura Courtney performed a dance to the song “Bleeding Love” with a couple friends. Jessica Portney performed an interpretive dance to the Daft Punk song “Harder Better Faster Stronger” with a friend. Jennifer Ruff finished the talent portion by singing a song from the musical Wicked with Tom Lohmuller on piano.

After another performance from Jason, it was time for the question and answer session. The girls were each faced with two difficult questions, such as “If you were the president of the Student Association, what

would be one of the first things you would do to try to improve the school?” and “What would you do if you were an inch tall for a day?”

Everyone answered their questions well and Jason played a few more songs while the judges finished up scoring and deciding the winner of Ms. Puma 2009.

After a suspenseful pause, it was announced that Meagan Maes placed third, Jennifer Ruff placed second, and Sarah Wright was the winner of Ms. Puma 2009. The girls all congratulated each other after a night of excellent talent displayed by all.

2009 Mr. Puma Contest

By Francisco Gonzalez
Staff Writer

Thursday night of April 16 was the annual Mr. Puma contest. Sponsored by the Student Union Board, the event took place in the auditorium in the science building. The contest is a chance for male Pumas to try their luck at earning the title of Mr. Puma here at St. Joseph College. To earn the title the men must perform four different events, which would be judged by a panel of judges. The four events included formal dress, athletic, talent, and a question and answer portion. The contestants for this competition included (in order of appearance) Sean van Pelt, Kyle Fender, Kevin Craney, Mike Bender, and Sean Warren.

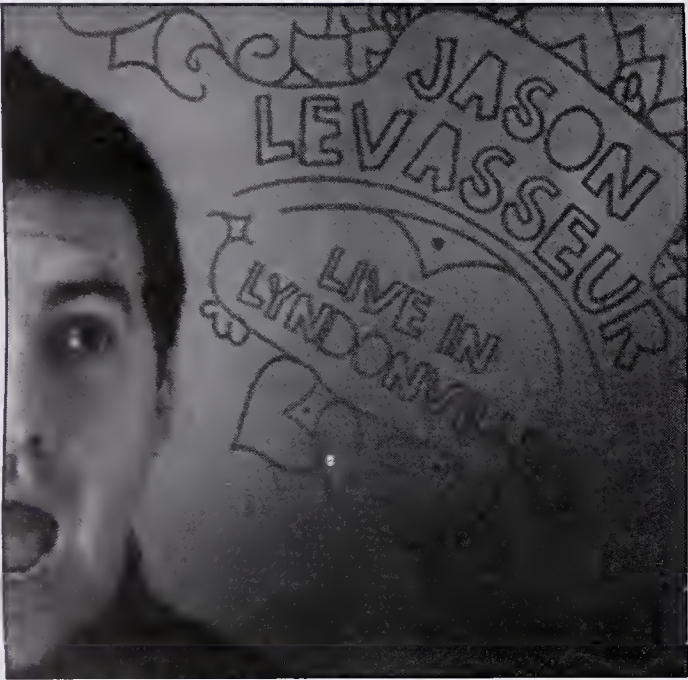
Almost twenty minutes before the competition began, the theatre was packed from front to back. A legion of students came out in support of their friends as loud and devoted fans who’d cheer as loud as they could for the contestants as they went on stage.

To host the event, the audience had the pleasure of having Jason Levasseur do the honors. Between events he entertained the crowd with some of his own songs as well as renditions of famous hits like Mrs. Robinson and Can You Feel the love tonight, in which he called out to the

audience to sing along with him.

Some of the highlights of the night took place during the talent session. The one that got people talking about the next day was Sean van Pelt’s long, yet excellent rendition of Billy Joel’s “Piano Man.” Mike Bender performed on stage with a full band, and Kyle Fender preformed a bit of stand-up comedy. Other great moments included Kevin Craney dancing to a medley of famous hits, and Sean Warren doing a rap, as well as some rather crazy dancing moves, and his describing the perfect date to be Oprah Winfrey.

In the end the judges picked three winners, with the first place winner gaining the title of Mr. Puma. Third place went to Sean Warren, second place to Kyle Fender, and first going, deservedly, to Sean van Pelt. Overall it was a night to remember at St. Joseph College.



(Pictures courtesy of <http://cdbaby.name/j/l/levasseur4.jpg>)



(Picture courtesy of <http://www.mmhabits.com/images/crown.jpg>)

SJC Students Support a Village of Hope

By Ashlee Doty
Staff Writer

During the weekend of Little 500 there was a walk-a-thon to support four students going to Tanzania, Africa and helping kids with AIDS. This idea came about in a Swahili class. The students wanted to visit Africa and help with the problems they were learning about.

A contest was devised to pick four students to travel to Africa. Those four lucky students are being announced on Monday April 20, 2009. To be eligible for the trip, students had to write a two page paper on why they deserved to go to Africa. Those who sent in essays also came up with plans to raise money for the trip.

The students all decided that even though not everyone could go they would still help the other students raise money so they could go.

At the walk-a-thon over thirty walkers participated. There were kids, students, parents, and professors walking from 11 am to 5 pm on Saturday. The group also sold over one hundred t-shirts, not counting the ones they sold on Saturday.

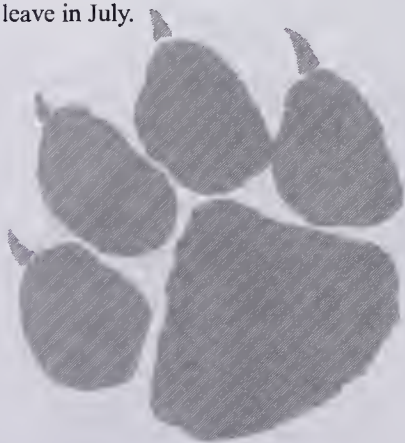
Parent Cindy Katona, “These kids want to help. They see a problem and want to figure out a way to fix it. These young people are leaving their comfort zones to go somewhere where they’ve only read about. I wish them the best of luck.”

At one point during the day, a dog was even wearing the yellow shirt. To help draw attention to the many problems in Africa poster boards were set up along the track.

Maggie Hall’s poster board depicted Malaria and Andrew Dudich’s also had information about Malaria on it. Although the group collected a fair amount of money Saturday, much is still needed for the trip and therefore they will be collecting money until they leave in July.

Pictured to the right: Chantel Johnson shows her supports for the cause like many others did Saturday, by wearing one of the many t-shirts sold.

(Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFrolond C.P.P.S)



The Future of Degrees

By Christina Heath

Has America become so set on getting things done quicker that it is affecting the way we view higher education? In today's world, a four year college is not the only option. With online schooling and technical schooling, America is becoming more concerned with getting out of school and knowing a trade; a traditional education is becoming more and more obsolete. Is the ability to choose higher education making education less important to people? Are colleges becoming a scam with so many attendants? These are all questions many people are asking.

Some say that for them, technical school is better. Then for other students, like those here at Saint Joseph's, a traditional four year college is preferable. Enrollment of students for a secondary education has risen to 23% between the years 1995 and 2005. This is good news for some, yet bad for many others with economy and employment decreasing.

A technical school does have many attributes and defects to it. Students can finish in one quarter of the time you would at a four year school, students can learn a trade quickly, they can help students find a job right out of school, it costs less, and is generally better for those who learn kinesthetically. All of these factors make a technical school very appealing. Yet, on the other hand, students do not learn all the information given at a four year or two year college, they do not gain the same experience and opportunities, and students are stuck in that sort of trade forever.

Traditional four year colleges also have their pros and cons. Four year colleges do cost more, usually require full-time enrollment, and are not as easy to get accepted in. Yet, in a four year program, there are many more opportunities, students have the ability to change majors or minors as they see fit, and students are given the chance to learn more about everything and anything they wish.

There are still students who attend a four year college who learn better kinesthetically, and make it all the way without any problems.

It seems that today, people are more worried about getting in and out of school as quick as they can, leaving behind the thought of how important education is. It also seems like a formal, traditional education does not hold all the greatness it used to. This takes away from the importance of education. Now, anyone can get some form of higher education. There are always ads on how anyone can make it through college or go to

a technical school, and have a better life. How much value are we really putting into these ads? Knowing the ads are used to draw people into things, can we really believe all we hear about a higher education?

Education is still held in high important, but not in the same way as it used to be. Having this ability to choose higher education is leading students to be blind to the importance of a four year program; in turn, that blindness is making education not as important as it used to be. Do we get rid of all other educational institutes other than traditional schooling? That would not be right, but what would be right is to force more importance on all and any education after high school. What about the students who get into college, that really should not be there, and the students who should be going to college who cannot? Students who should be in college generally do not have enough money, and cannot get the money for their education, than students who have the money. Students who have more wealthy families seem to blow college off more because mommy and daddy will pay for everything. Yet there are some lucky people who do get into college that really should be there. Myself included. My family does not have a lot of money, and for a while I was the only one with a stable income, which lead to only about \$100 a week. Yet, because of this, I obtained federal grants to help me pay for college.

Another problem arising in

it is leaving many former students with no jobs, incorrect training, and thousands of dollars of debt. Also, with the increase of college bound students, jobs in certain fields are becoming obsolete.

This problem is not only the student's and school's fault, but also the government's. The government has not been taking the time to look into schools credibility. Government insufficiency to check school and teacher credibility is not only losing money for them, but also helping create some of the economical problems we are facing. Students that have taken out federal loans and are unable to pay are costing the government millions of dollars.

Sam Seaborn (The West Wing) said this about education:

"Education is the silver bullet. Education is everything. We don't need little changes. We need gigantic revolutionary changes. Schools should be palaces. Competition for the best teachers should be fierce. They should be getting six-figure salaries. Schools should be incredibly expensive for the government and absolutely free of charge for its citizens, just like national defense. That is my position. I just haven't figured out how to do it yet."

This is a great idea--but looking at it realistically, it will never happen. The value of a degree is going down in America. Having your bachelors degree now is almost like having a high school diploma. Yet, shouldn't it mean more when you pay all that money, and get the "full college experience" with it?

With all of this knowledge, where is higher education going and what will it lead to?

Personally, I think a college education is the most wonderful opportunity I've been given. But I also work very hard at it. Education is very important to me, considering I'm studying to be a teacher. Yet, what about the students who cannot make it and cannot find the jobs they need to succeed in life? Is college a scam for many students? I would have to agree that college is not right for everyone. And how do we know who is lying to

the public, and who is not? The back and forth game of higher education is becoming old and worrisome for many. The value of higher education debate will never cease, but I believe students choosing to go into higher education can make their own choices and decide what is best for them.

(Sources from <<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/01/31/60minutes/main670479.shtml>>; <<http://www.barryeoman.com/articles/scamschools.html>>; and <http://rossdouthat.theatlantic.com/archives/2008/05/the_great_higher_education_deb.php>)



(Picture courtesy of <http://progressivestates.org/sync/images/dispatch/collegeDiploma.jpg>)

higher education is the thought of it being a scam. Lately, all we hear is how getting a higher education does not matter, and they are taking all the money they can without students getting the promised results. About 1.2 million adults a year are entering into a trade school that offers many different fields, yet many of these schools are not legitimate. In 1993 the U.S Department of Education banned around 700 trade schools because of fraud and other factors. With students taking out so much money for the fraudulent schools, and then the schools scamming the penniless,

Little Five Gets a Little Crazy

By Kynten Hannon
Staff Writer

Another Little 500 has come and gone. As a freshman who has never been on a college campus during parties prior to this weekend, this was a most enlightening experience. Just by walking around the campus, one could find more things to do than the hours in the day would allow for. Booths, bag tournaments, racing, baseball games, drinking, and designated driving were just a few of the weekend activities available. While walking down to Justin, I passed by several parties that were fairly substantial. In my passing, I noticed more than a few people who needed an extra set of hands to get where they were going. In passing, I noticed that drinking is a rather entertaining spectators sport. I understand that people who drink are often rather fond of the activity, but is it really necessary to drink to the point that you fall asleep on the floor using a empty Coors box as a pillow? I mean, come on. It may just be me, but don't you think that it would be a little smarter and less space consuming to go to a couch or back to your room to crash? It was also less than pleasant to be stepped on by people wearing stilettos, but I suppose those people deserve a little credit for simply being able to walk in those things without falling while they were drunk. Despite this being my first college party encounter, it proved to be a most enjoyable weekend. So as the SJC campus prepares to bid semester 082 adieu, Little 500 provided many students with a weekend they will always remember.

Have your voice be heard!

--Are there people or groups on campus that you think deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the campus community?
--Are there **issues** in *The Observer* that need to be addressed?
--Do you have any **concerns** with policies on campus?
--Are there **issues** **you** think need to be discussed?
--**Tell US About It!!**

The Student Forum is your way to speak out and have your voice be heard. Please send your letters to Morgan Myers at mmq7668@saintjoe.edu attached as a Rich Text Format (.rtf) document.

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The Story of How Neverland Came To Be

By Amber Melvin
Staff Writer

I thoroughly enjoyed “Finding Neverland”. Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet were an absolutely wonderful pair in this romantic drama, released in 2004. The creators of this film picked a great duo for the roles of James Barrie and Sylvia Llewelyn Davies. The movie describes how the story of “Peter Pan” came about. Depp portrays James Barrie, the writer of “Peter Pan”, while Winslet portrays Sylvia. This story was inspired upon real events, as said in the beginning of the movie.



Try some coffee. The sugar is arsenic. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.kaffee-klatsch.biz/best%20picture%20finding%20neverland.jpg>)

I really enjoyed how good the actors were. The boy who played Peter, portrayed by Freddie Highmore, did an absolutely wonderful job. He was only twelve years old when he took on this role. Whenever a scene came with Highmore in it, I was always interested. He is such a good actor and he does an amazing job making the role that he is playing very believable.

I really like how in certain scenes, James Barrie sees something happening in real life, then it flashes to what he sees in his mind as a would-be scene from the play of “Peter Pan”

that he is writing. The scenes that we see from Barrie’s play are exquisite, vastly detailed and very cool.

I also found it very cute that Barrie was so good with Sylvia’s four sons. Some may have found it slightly on the creepy side that he was playing games right alongside them not long after the bunch had met. Also the way he became very close to them and seemed to have a bit of an obsession with being with them everyday. This may be because when he was playing games with the boys, he got ideas for his play that he was writing or maybe it was that he wanted to court their mother.

The two characters that caught my eye the most were, James Barrie and Peter, Sylvia’s son. They were the most interesting of all the characters. I applaud both of them on their acting. James caught my eye because he seemed like a brilliant character with such a vivid imagination. As a creative writer myself, I can relate to Barrie, in the sense that he is a playwright and also because he is extraordinarily creative. Of course he has to be since he is a playwright.

For the most part I was very interested in the movie and there

were very few tedious sections. I truly think that this deserved all the good reviews that it received.

This film works as a family oriented movie and it could also be a good date movie, because of the romance included into it.

There are not very many unclear portions, but what movie doesn’t have at least one part that is not clear? I would give this film four and a half stars because of some unclear sections that it tends to have.



Happy family gatherings in the park. (Photo courtesy of http://img2.timeinc.net/ew/dynamic/imgs/080506/Mothers/Finding-Neverland-Winslet_1.jpg)

Finding Neverland	
Cast	Director
Johnny Depp: Sir J. M. Barrie	Marc Forster
Kate Winslet: Sylvia Llewelyn Davies	
Julie Christie: Mrs. Emma du Maurier	Released
Radha Mitchell: Mary Ansell Barrie	November 24, 2004
Dustin Hoffman: Charles Frohman	Runtime
Freddie Highmore: Peter Llewelyn Davies	106 minutes
	Rated PG

In Case You Missed It: Piebald Will Win Over “American Hearts”

By Michael Garrity
Staff Writer

There are very few things that could be considered among the greatest human tragedies of all time. The existence, and subsequent breakup, of Boston indie rock band Piebald is one of those tragedies. Though they started out as a terrible Nirvana ripoff band in high school, they eventually developed into one of the most creative, fun, and underappreciated indie bands of the early years of the 21st Century. After a few minor releases that were never solid but always showed promise (such as the song “Grace Kelly with Wings” from their 1999 album If It Weren’t for Venetian Blinds, It’d be Curtains for Us All, which you should go download ASAP) they finally came out with an excellent six-song EP in 2000, led by the incredible “Rock Revolution.” Two years later, however, the band hit their stride with We Are the Only Friends We Have.

The first song I heard off We Are the Only Friends We Have, at the recommendation of a friend,



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.drivenfaroff.com/wp-content/2007/08/piebald.jpg>)

was the third track “American Hearts,” and I remember being totally blown away by it. So much so that I went out and purchased the album the first chance I got. It may be the single greatest decision I have ever made. What makes the band so great, and this album especially, is simply the songwriting. The lyrics are clever and unique, always thought provoking but never too serious, especially considering the sappiest song on the album may be the first track, “King of the Road,” in which singer Travis Shettel croons too his old junked car in a way that is equal parts comical and sentimental.

The next track is “Just a Simple Plan,” which is about, you guessed it, a simple plan to keep a friend from sleeping too much. In the song, Shettel expresses fear that his friend will sleep himself to death, all while being a constant reminder for the listener to make sure to experience life without wasting our time on the frivolous and unnecessary. The next track is the aforementioned (and have I mentioned STELLAR) “American Hearts,”

which is always an experience to listen to. Though the chorus may seem simple, reminding us all that we are a “part of it,” the song packs a punch, and a hook, that is rare in pop music. Shettel warns that

“this country is unequal still” and “history continues itself,” he quickly reminds us that he “did not create the rules,” because we are all a “part of it.” Lyrically and musically, this song comes together as well as any I have ever heard, and will probably always remain among my absolute favorites.

Next is the piano-based rocker “Long Nights,” which is a blunt statement of disgust over a relationship and the singer’s desire to get out of it. After that is the endearing, acoustic pop number “Fear and Loathing on Cape Cod,” a bouncy tune about getting in a van, driving out of town, and experimenting with “contraband” one night, creating their own “fear and loathing (think Johnny Depp film) except on Cape Cod.” Up next is the anti-work, pop punk anthem “The Monkey Versus the Robot,” which is all about how great of a job it is to be in a band, instead of working 9-5 as somebody’s monkey, or robot for that matter. Following that is the rocker “Karate Chops for Everyone but Us,” which is all about how uncool the guys in Piebald actually are.

The best review I have ever read about the next song came from a customer on Amazon.com, and that is simply that it is “weird.” “Rich People Can Breed” is constantly switching from punk-style zaniness to a slow, acoustic-laced sound that can only be described as pretty. Coincidentally enough, the song seems to be about nothing more than just how weird rich people can be. Next is the acoustic

slow jam “It’s Going to Get Worse Before it Gets Better,” a sentimental but still upbeat song about a nonexistent relationship that. Still, the serious break is nice for the album, and is bound to woo some ladies with lines like “I’m holding one hand or two, depending if we’re walking or dancing. Either way, I’m feeling fine.”

Things do not stay slow too long though, as the obviously titled track about a smitten creeper, “The Stalker,” comes complete with handclaps and guitar solos. Another song with a clearly reflective title, “Look, I Just Don’t Like You,” follows, and keeps up the faster pace. The album ends with the song “Sex Sells and (Unfortunately) I’m Buying.” Like many other great bands (see: The Who), Piebald’s twelfth and final track is a song about masturbation that does not sound like it would be a song about masturbation.

Unfortunately, the band never quite caught on. Their next release, All Ears, All Eyes, All the Time enjoyed a very brief run of success with its first single being played on late-night MTV2. Their final album, Accidental Gentlemen, was released in 2007 to little reception and the band called it quits in the summer of 2008. More fortunately, I was able to see the band in their last ever Indiana stop in early July 2008, and it was by and large my favorite concert going experience. However, the band will continue to light up my iPod, and hopefully yours as well. Piebald was an incredible example of what a good band should be, excellent

songwriting and constant reinvention. It worked for Bob Dylan, unfortunately, not so much for these guys. So, if you want something new to listen to, find a way to get We Are the Only Friends We Have and you will be able to call yourself a complete human being.



(Photo courtesy of http://vox2.cdn.america-free.com/band-picture/Piebald_iWU1nJGVk4x_full.jpg)

We Are the Only Friends We Have	
Tracklisting:	
1. King of the Road	
2. Just a Simple Plan	
3. American Hearts	
4. Long Nights	
5. Fear and Loathing on Cape Cod	
6. The Monkey Versus the Robot	
7. Karate Chops for Everyone But Us	
8. Rich People Can Breed	
9. It’s Going to Get Worse Before It Gets Better	
10. The Stalker	
11. Look, I Just Don’t Like You	
12. Sex Sells and (Unfortunately) I’m Buying	
Personnel:	
Travis Shettel - Vocals and Guitar	
Andrew Bonner - Bass	
Aaron Stuart - Guitar	
Jon Sullivan - Drums	

A Fairy Tale Retold in *Daughter of the Forest*

By Erica Rowshan
Staff Writer

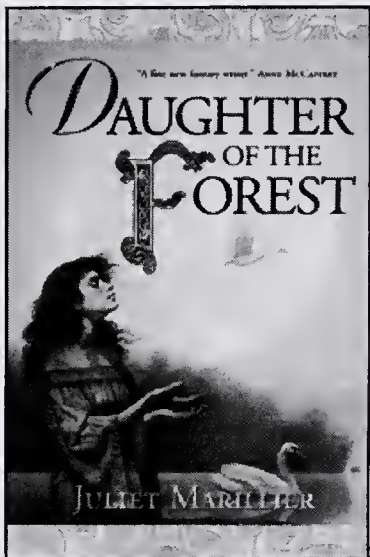
There are a few books which I know that I can always turn to on a quiet (and some would say boring) day in order to entertain myself. These books are works that I have read many times and yet, can always seemingly go back to and start re-reading them once again. Sometimes I will even know a book so well that I can open up on a random page and instantly remember just what is going on in the story at the time. One of these beloved books that goes somewhat against what I typically read (historical fiction) is *Daughter of the Forest* by Juliet Marillier.

Daughter of the Forest is based slightly off the fairy tale, The Six Swans and retells the story in an engaging and beautiful manner. The main character in the book is Sorcha, who has six older brothers who, through numerous events, she must save from an evil witch who has enchanted her father. In addition to having to save her brothers, she must remain completely silent while doing her quest. Throughout the story, Sorcha meets many people (some friends and some enemies) who affect the way that the story flows.

While this may sound like a stereotypical fairy tale, what makes *Daughter of the Forest* interesting is that it takes place in ancient Ireland (the time when it actually takes place is never stated outright). Instead of knights and princesses, Marillier gives the

reader more interesting and well rounded characters such as the quiet and brave young Sorcha and her six enchanted brothers. Woven throughout the story are some well-known Irish tales and this truly helps to show the mystery and mood that might have taken place during the past in Ireland.

If you are at all interested in retellings of old fairy tales and myths, I highly recommend *Daughter of the Forest* to you. And, if you find that you fall in love with the story just like I did, you will be happy to know that there are three other books in a series that help to continue on the tale. Even if you are not typically drawn to fairy tales, if you give this book a chance, you might just find that it charms you in a similar way to how it charmed me.



(Picture courtesy of <http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/imagenes/n4/n22730.jpg>)

Final Reflections and Criticisms About End of the Year Events

By James Smith
Staff Writer

In my four years (yes Chris Black, I only spent FOUR years at Saint Joe), I have learned two important things: (1) natural law is “the rational creature’s participation in the eternal law” and (2) Saint Joseph’s is a weird place. Let’s be completely honest, I still don’t know where Rensselaer is, even though I can actually spell it. The middle of nowhere doesn’t begin to describe our location. As has

been in all of my articles, here are some of my personal reflections on Saint Joseph’s College.

Another four years. Besides the conservative slogan leftover from Bush in 2005 when I started at SJC, the Joe is really another four years of high school. We try to mask it with fancy coed dorms, but it still is. The cliques are a little updated, though the immaturity and narrow-mindedness of most students is still present.

For example, a student a few months ago really didn’t understand how sexual orientation could be considered a minority. The closest our students get to encountering diversity is rooting for big-time athletics in football

and basketball. With the recent cut of funding for students who wish to study abroad (by ‘cut’ I mean that SJC scholarships probably will not transfer with you to the respective school

where you hope to study), this lack of a legitimate experience of the ‘other’ is a cause for concern. I’m sorry, but listening to ethnocentric comments in junior level Core, from both professors and students, didn’t quite do it for me.

The faculty here, on the flip side, is astounding. Getting to build houses right next to your advisor, thanks Fred, or having dinner with a prof or a priest and a brother is a rarity at most schools, but an everyday occurrence at Saint Joseph’s. I’ll be a little biased to my major, but the philosophy/religion faculty here would rival that of almost any school in the nation. Believe me, I’ve googled those other schools’ faculties.

The only slight criticism (come on you had to see it coming) of the faculty is a slight amount of

complacency. Hearing complaints from profs in the classroom about faculty assemblies or general complaining really doesn’t have a place in the classroom. I think the line between professor-student relationship and peer-peer relationship gets a little blurred at times. Other than that, great job. Please don’t lower my grades for the above comments.

YES WE CAN & YES WE DID. No, this is not in reference to the Obama campaign. Instead, this is in reference to the FIRE ERIC BRAUN CAMPAIGN. Mission accomplished. I might have been Eric’s harshest critic here on campus, just ask Joe Stewart about random conversations at SA meetings.

He did do a few good things though. First, the food the first few weeks he was here was amazing. He really added an extra pop to the SJC experience. However, that quickly faded and we began to see desert food at nearly every station, not to mention left-overs almost a week past when they were first served. I am super optimistic about our

new food guy though. He seems to be really interested in students and their perspective and input on our food (emphasis on our not Sodexo). Hopefully we can find a few more flexible options for students with meal plans, say possibly meal replacements for more than just student-athletes?

Little 500 has come and gone. And thanks to the antics of some underclassmen who do not understand moderation, I had a horrible time. Two notes of caution to underclassmen. First, stop cutting in line. I am getting sick and tired of seeing you cut lines in the caf. This is not middle or high school. And trust me, you’re not hot shit. Next time it happens I might just spill some red cream soda all over your white shirt. Two, be responsible. It wasn’t too long ago that SJC was actually a wet campus everywhere. The actions of a few, and I mean just a few, made this campus drier than a Sham Wow.

By Danielle Marshall
Editor-in-Chief

By the time this issue is printed, there will only be one full week for most of you to attend SJC this semester. However, for fellow seniors and those required to stay for graduation, there are still a few extra days to tag on to that. I felt the need to say my goodbyes to everyone and give you my final reflections of my time here at Saint Joseph’s College.

I am well prepared to jump ship now and swim to shore. I only have a few more real assignments to do for my classes and my finals are usually a joke, which doesn’t upset me in the least. I want to be done. I am already making plans to pack up my stuff to make things as quick as possible on graduation day.

I can’t say I haven’t enjoyed some of my time here. On the contrary, I have more fond memories and just memories I wouldn’t trade for world peace than I ever had in high school. Our experiences in these places shape and mold us to be better (or worse in some cases) for life and to wish that they were different is a waste of time. We can’t regret our choices to matriculate to a fine school like SJC and we can’t regret the friends we make and lose and remake and relapse in the course of four plus years there.

My desire to go home simply stems from the fact that I have been here four years and I am tired of being a student, for now. In the fall I will be going on to graduate school to become a school counselor because for

some reason I think that I will enjoy working with adolescents.

But sometimes you need a change from places you been for a long time. Saint Joseph’s is such a small campus and Rensselaer is such a small town that you can get bored and jaded with it quickly if you can’t find means of entertainment. I am ready for a larger school that will provide me with some greater social experiences and greater diversity of people. (Sometimes I like to see strangers’ faces.)

All in all though, I have enjoyed my classes in my majors and an occasional Core class. I will miss Cup o’ Joe, The Observer, and maybe even band a little. I will miss some of the underclassmen I will be leaving behind, but with Facebook and cellphones, continued communication isn’t as difficult as it once was. I would even say that I will miss my roommate, but we will be rooming together again in graduate school so I will only miss her for the summer.

I will miss the small, intimate community of SJC, but I crave the expansiveness of a larger university. I have appreciated the care and attention some professors

give to their students, which is something I may lose in grad school. I will miss the familiarity of this place.

However, I will not miss the mass produced food. I will not miss the middle school and high school-esque drama of many of the students here. I will not miss having to take Core classes. I will not miss the long drive from home to school that has prevented me from going home many times. I will not miss the seclusion and isolation of SJC.

As I said before, though, I wouldn’t trade this for the world. I could have gone anywhere for undergrad, but I chose Saint Joseph’s College and I am glad of it. I would not have made the friends I have or have had the experiences I’ve had if I had chosen to go to Hanover or Ball State. And as everything comes to a close, this is my goodbye.

I’m seriously worried that the inappropriate actions of some underclassmen with regards to the apartments and elsewhere on campus could get this campus to dry up again. I perfectly understand that college students experiment with alcohol and try to gain their footing as adults.

Just remember this next time you see a freshman drinking

over in the apartments or some underage kids doing crazy stuff on the sidewalk: we, the students, should help get the alcohol policy on the apartments in place. In the same way students could get that reversed by their actions.



And so we say “Goodbye, and Goodnight!” (Picture courtesy of <http://www.wayodd.com/funny-pictures2/funny-pictures-goodbye-cruel-world-10a.jpg>)



Kumbaya! (Photo courtesy of http://thumbs.dreamstime.com/thumb_66/1150733298yS48BM.jpg)



Quench that thirst. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.saycompuslife.com/images/beer-drinkers.jpg>)



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.ohioduilawyer.net/images-extras/Drink-Responsibly.jpg>)

sodexo
Making every day a better day

(Picture courtesy of http://tndc.ca/imagenes/SRSC/sodexo_gb_rvb.jpg)

Pumas Split Series With Indianapolis Greyhounds



By Jeremy Butterfield
Staff Writer

During the 17th and 18th of April, the Saint Joseph's College baseball team faced a division rival: the Indianapolis Greyhounds for a four game series. The Pumas were 25-13 (9-7 in conference and 6-6 in division).

The Pumas split the first two games of the series (winning 8-5 and losing 5-8). For both of these games the pitching was good overall but for each side they had their bad innings where they would let a lot of

runs score. In the third game, the Greyhounds struck fast, scoring 2 runs in the first inning. One run was scored with an error by the Pumas and the other run was a fielder's choice to get the man out at first instead of throwing to home plate. The Pumas ended up struggling with 9 hits throughout the game. All of those hits came during times men were not in scoring position.

The Greyhounds only had 7 hits but their hits came during clutch moments during the game. The Greyhounds put the final nail in game in the top of the 7th, scoring 2 more runs, making the final score 6-0 for the Greyhounds. The Pumas did

not do a bad job of pitching but they could not get it together offensively. White (8-0) got the win for the Greyhounds, and Zegarac (4-3) got the loss for the Pumas. The Pumas used four pitchers during this game, with the Greyhounds only using one pitcher.

The Pumas were down in the series 1-2, and really needed to pull off a victory from the Greyhounds. In the bottom of the 2nd, the Pumas scored 2 runs with some fundamental hitting. In the 4th inning, the Greyhounds scored from a homerun by Sondgeroth, which made the score 2-1 in favor of the Pumas. The Greyhounds intentionally walked Nate Weglarz, which was a bad idea because the next hitter, Andrew Jesse, hit a triple with a

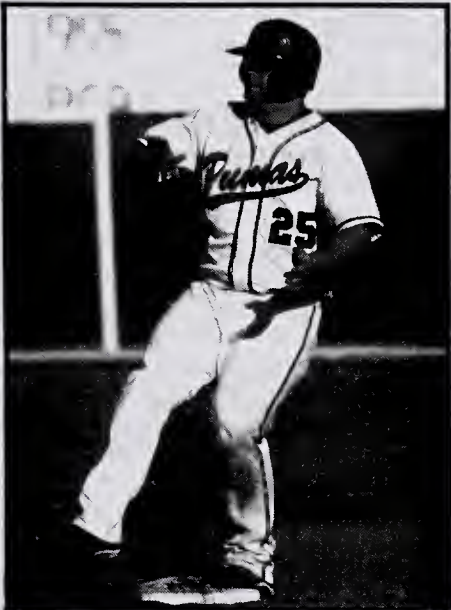
0-2 count against him that scored both men that were on base. the score was now 4-1. The very next inning the Pumas did it again: Foltz hit a double, which also moved Pericht to third. Then Norris hit a single which he stretched for a double. Pericht and Foltz both scored on the play. That let the Pumas be up 6-1 going into the top of the 7th inning.

The Greyhounds only scored one run in the seventh, and that was it for the Greyhounds as the game would end 6-2 for a Puma win. Trowbridge (2-0) got the win for the Pumas, and Werner (4-2) got the loss for the Greyhounds. Tingley closed out the game for the Pumas. The Pumas are now 27-15 overall 11-9 in conference and 8-8 in their division. The Pumas are 6th in conference and 4th in division.

The Pumas next opponent is a double header against the Quincy Hawks on Tuesday the 21st.

These games are in conference so these are very important games. But since this is not an in-division game, there is a little leeway here.

There are only 10 games left including the games verse Quincy until the GLVC tournament, so the rest of the season is important for getting a good seed in the tournament.



In this photo: C/1B. Joe Messina (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)



Thomas Zurliene tags out a man at first (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Remaining baseball games

Apr 21	@Quincy
Apr 21	@Quincy
Apr 25	@Lewis
Apr 25	@Lewis
Apr 26	@Lewis
Apr 26	@Lewis
May 2	Kentucky Wesleyan
May 2	Kentucky Wesleyan
May 3	Kentucky Wesleyan
May 3	Kentucky Wesleyan
May 7-10	GLVC
Tournament - Sauget, IL T.B.A.	



By Pam Larson
Staff Writer

Even with the engines running, the grills lit up, and the beverages flowing, there are still groups of athletes that have other commitments to make during Little 500 weekend. As students and alumni gather at SJC for a yearly tradition, the Pumas on the Track and Field team, Softball team, Baseball team, and Tennis team are either at home or off campus for another competition before the end of the

season. While some students believe that the Little 500 race is such a great tradition, the athletes participating during the weekend see the positives about competing instead of the negatives. Senior baseball player Chase Sonen said about this weekend, "I love playing on Little 500 weekend because everyone stays at school and alumni come in. There are always great crowds and for one weekend out of the year this feels like a real college atmosphere."

Little 500 brings the crowd

to different things other than the centrally located race.

Another positive aspect about competing during Little 500 is that athletes get the best of both worlds. Junior track runner Jay Skibbens said, "I like the experience I have gotten so far, but we usually miss out on only about half of Saturday, so I feel that this is a good mix of Track and Little 500." This weekend has many possibilities to be a great one.

Even with the positive aspects of the alumni coming out for different events, there are still some who do not like playing this weekend but would not trade the

experience they have. Senior tennis player Jessica Conlin said, "Being part of the tennis team has been one of the most rewarding experiences of the college career. Missing one day of activities, Little 5, will not make or break my college experience, however as I know more alumni, the experience becomes different and I wish I could participate."

As the school year comes to the close, students and faculty participate in the different traditions that make Saint Joseph's what it is. There are some who

are just starting to experience the traditions of Saint Joseph's but there are the few that will be coming back as alumni in the upcoming year.

Another year has passed and so we must say goodbye. Since this is the last issue for the Observer of this year, I congratulate all of you for having a great time at SJC and have a good summer. Good luck to the seniors for whatever they might be doing after graduation. It has been a great



#92, Andrew Malone won this years Little 500. As a senior, Andrew has won the Little 500 three times. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)



In this photo: Senior, Richard Ewbank (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Little 500 Driver Photos:



In this Photo: Left to Right: Corey Patterson, Andrew Malone, Mary Kate Kenney, Tim Deno, Jerome Kotel (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Mark Martin Wins At Phoenix

By Jake Hellinga
Guest Writer

The NASCAR season has just begun and with the eighth race this Saturday at the 2.66 mile Talladega Superspeedway. However, many events have happened this season already. Tony Stewart has entered as an owner driver. Stewart split from the ownership of Joe Gibbs Racing, which is a powerhouse in NASCAR, and joined Haas CNC Racing. Taking over Stewarts place at Joe Gibbs Racing is Joey Longano, who is still getting used to racing with the pros.

Last week, at Phoneix, veteran Mark Martin won his first race in nearly four years. The 50-year old pole-sitter was able to pull away from Tony Stewart with 6 laps in the race. Kyle Busch came close to contending towards the end of the race, but was flagged for going too fast in the pits

Stewart ran second followed by Kurt Busch, Jimmie Johnson and Greg Biffle. Denny Hamlin, Martin Truex Jr., David Reutimann, Sam Hornish Jr. and Carl

Edwards completed the top 10. As I mentioned, Talladega Speedway is this week, and with drivers going over 190 mph, many are going to attempt to avoid “the big one.”



Mark Martin held off Tony Stewart to win at Phoenix (http://www.nascar.com/2009/news/headlines/cup/04/18/post_race/mmartin.wins.phoenix/index.html)

Fantasy Baseball: The Injury Bug Bites Back

By Steve Novak
Guest Writer

Hey there St. Joe, your Fantasy GuRu is back! I’m here to tell you how long your players are going to be on the shelf and who to replace them with.

Chris Carpenter- 15 Day DL- Strained Rib-cage
- Rib injuries are never a good thing because they require a long recovery time. He is expected to be out 4-8 weeks. This is a blow to the Cardinals and to his fantasy owners as he didn’t allow a run in 10 innings pitched so far this season.

Replacement: Kyle Davies-
Owned in 30% of Yahoo! Fantasy Leagues. So far this year he has a 2.13 ERA and has allowed only 13 hits in 18 2/3 innings this year. Don’t be surprised if he wins 15 games this year with a sub-four ERA.

Melvin Mora- 15 Day DL- Hamstring Injury
- He played with a hamstring

injury this year and then reinjured it in spring training. After aggravating it again last week, Mora landed himself on the DL. He should be back in 2 weeks when his time on the DL is up.

Replacement: Brian Barden-
Owned in 3% of Yahoo! Fantasy Leagues. He is batting .409 with 3 homeruns and 4 RBIs thus far. The Cardinals have one of the most potent lineups in the league so look for the production to continue.

Xavier Nady- 15 Day DL- Right Elbow Injury
- Nady’s injury might require him to have season ending Tommy John surgery. He has damage to ligaments and bone in his elbow. The Yankees are searching for an alternate to surgery but the chances are slim they find one.

Replacement: Kosuke Fukudome-
Owned in 52% of Yahoo! Fantasy Leagues. He is batting .366 with 3 homeruns, and 10 RBIs. The Cubs outfielder is off to another hot start. If he can stay away from hitting a slump

like last year, look for him to do something special.

Daisuke Matsuzaka- 15 Day DL- Arm Fatigue
- He left his last start after one inning and was almost immediately placed on the DL. Dice-K has pitched a lot in the last few months with the WBC, spring training, and the regular season. Hopefully a little R&R will be the cure.

Replacement: Justin Masterson-
Owned in 14% of Yahoo! Fantasy Leagues. He is taking Matsuzaka’s spot in the rotation and was a big contributor for the Red Sox last season while posting a 3.24 ERA. Masterson is a great short term replacement if your pitching staff is hurting.



Daisuke Matsuzaka is on the 15 day DL with arm fatigue (Photo courtesy of <http://www.fantasyphenoms.com/userfiles/image/matsuzaka31.JPG>)

By Dan Rogers
Sports Editor
Puma Tennis Profile:



Angela Burgeson

What’s your favorite color?
Pink

Favorite place to eat at in Rensselaer?
Devin’s Family Restaurant because of the delicious buffet and the welcoming atmosphere.

How long have you been playing tennis for?
I have been playing tennis since the age of 7

Overall, who is the better tennis player, you or your sister?
I’ve had more experience as a tennis player

Who’s more athletic?
I would have to say we both played the same number of sports in our athletic career.

If you had to meet one person, who would it be?
Tom Welling

Role model?
My Grandma

Favorite sport besides tennis?
Volleyball

Who’s smarter, you or your sister?
Natalie

What do you want to do after SJC?
I just switched my major to business administration so right now I’m undecided.

Would you ever consider rooming with your sister?
Yes



Natalie Burgeson

What’s your favorite color?
Blue

Favorite place to eat at in Rensselaer?
Ricos for their birthday deals!

How long have you been playing tennis for?
I’ve been playing since I was 8 years old.

Overall, who’s the better tennis player, you or your sister?
Angela. She has been playing longer than I have.

Who’s more athletic?
We’re both pretty athletic

If you had to meet one person, who would it be?
Michael Rosenbaum

Role Model?
My Parents

Favorite sport besides tennis?
Volleyball

Who’s smarter, you or your sister?
Angela

What do you want to do after SJC?

Would you ever consider rooming with your sister?
Yes, of course

Karma and the Cosmos

By Star Goddess Sophia



Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
Lately, you have been fixing your eyes on the future quite a bit and without noticing, this has started to cause some distance between you and a friend. Although what may happen to you later is exciting, do not forget the present.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May. 19)
There have been a lot of misunderstandings stopping you from communicating well lately and this could give rise to an argument later in the week. Try to calm yourself and focus on what you really want to say.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
Now is the opportune time for you to be noticed by someone important. Whether you have a job interview or simply are out to make new friends, be sure to think positive and things will work out well for you!

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
Your bank statement is not looking as good as it used to so you might want to consider getting a summer job once the semester has ended. Be on the lookout and think creatively and you might find something really fun!

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
The best way to get through the next few weeks is by being incredibly thorough with everything that you do. If you are more thorough and thoughtful with what you do, you will find a lot more success later on.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
You have been quite stressed as of late and may need to take some time to relax a bit in spite of your upcoming finals. Education is important but your mental and physical health is important too!

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
A huge wave of creativity will hit you over the next few weeks and should continue on into the summer. Use the time to do a project that you have been thinking about for a while and you will find a good amount of success with it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You really need to take some time to relax and laugh a little bit. Your serious mood as of late has affected those around you in a less than happy way. Whether you rent a funny movie or pay a visit to your funniest friend is entirely up to you!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
You will receive something very special quite soon and this might cause you to become more care free and happy with life. You should consider using this gift to its fullest and enjoying yourself a bit more than you have been.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
All of the self-discipline that you have been imposing on yourself will pay off in a big way rather soon. Be prepared for some important occurrences over the next few weeks. And most importantly, enjoy your success. You have earned it!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
You are feeling particularly positive as of late and should consider using those happy feelings in a social event that will occur soon. If you do this, you might just make some important new friends who could help you out later on.

Pisces (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)
Lately, you have been thinking about making a major change in your life that you would not have considered a few years ago. Think carefully before making this decision as it could greatly affect you later on in life.

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for April 23
(219) 866-2222

fountainstonetheaters.com

17 Again (PG-13)

Fri: 4:30, 6:30, 8:50
Sat: 4:30, 6:30, 8:50
Sun: 2:40, 4:30, 6:30
Mon-Thurs: 4:30, 6:30

Fast and Furious (PG-13)

Fri: 4:20, 6:30, 8:50
Sat: 4:20, 6:30, 8:50
Sun: 1:50, 4:20, 6:30
Mon-Thurs: 4:20, 6:20

Hannah Montana (G)

Fri: 4:40, 6:40, 8:30
Sat: 4:40, 6:40, 8:30
Sun: 2:20, 4:40, 6:40
Mon-Thurs: 4:40, 6:40

Observe and Report (R)

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 8:40
Sat: 5:00, 7:00, 8:40
Sun: 2:10, 5:00, 7:00
Mon-Thurs: 5:00, 7:00

Monsters Vs. Aliens (PG)

Fri: 4:50, 6:50, 8:30
Sat: 4:50, 6:50, 8:30
Sun: 2:40, 4:50, 6:50
Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 6:50

Coming Soon!

Obsessed

The Soloist

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for April 23
(219) 866-0086

www.ritzcinema.net

He's Just Not That... (PG-13)

Every night at 7:30

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to erm6109@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

Are you tanning your baby?

One day, Africa and South America might hook up again...

What do you do when you can't "get it up" as a writer?

Person One: "That is definitely not true."

Person Two: "I just edited it into Wikipedia so now it is!"

Why is there a purse in our fridge?

Fact of the Matter

The first coast-to-coast telephone line was established in 1914.

At 90 weapons per 100 civilians, the United States has the world's highest rate of gun ownership.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.

More money is spent on gardening than any other hobby.

The sound of a pipe organ was the loudest noise that could be heard in 1600.

As of July 2005, the smallest country in the world in terms of population was the Pitcairn Islands with 45 inhabitants.

Facts Courtesy of www.randomfunfacts.com

Words of Wisdom

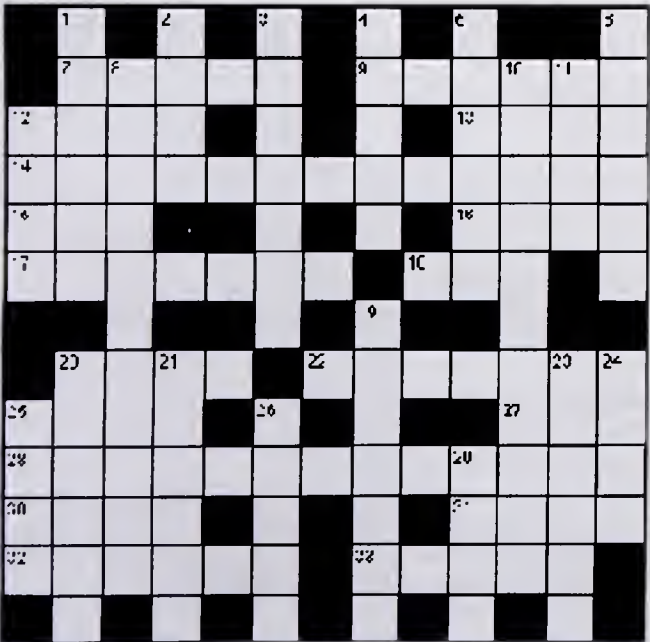
"There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth; not going all the way, and not starting."
Buddha

"Consider your origin; you were not born to live like brutes, but to follow virtue and knowledge."
Dante Alighieri

Quotes courtesy of www.quotationspage.com

Puzzle Time!

For Answers Go To: <http://www.crossword-site.com/print/usmip74.shtml>



Across

- 7. Campaign
- 9. Very poor person
- 12. Plant plots
- 13. Attention
- 14. Quote (8,5)
- 15. Perish
- 16. Stout pole
- 17. Miserly person
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 20. Yugoslav leader
- 22. German name of Lvov, W Ukraine
- 25. Got up
- 27. Foot part
- 28. Clueless
- 30. Is not
- 31. Camera part
- 32. Nightgown
- 33. Native New Zealander

Down

- 1. Pertaining to scenery
- 2. Bomb lighter
- 3. Giddiness
- 4. One of a card suit
- 5. Mucus-secreting membrane
- 6. Boring
- 8. Advertisements
- 10. Person who writes pamphlets
- 11. Female name
- 12. Offers a price
- 19. Heavy writing papers
- 20. Bodily organ
- 21. Fractions forming 10 per cent
- 23. Male name
- 24. Acquires
- 25. Destroy
- 26. Mount ----, extinct African volcano
- 29. Shine